**The Interdisciplinary International Scientific Conference**

organised by

**Ostravská univerzita** **in Ostrava**

**and Akademia im. Jana Długosza in Częstochowa**

**A doctor in the provinces**

**9-10 November 2017**

**Hucisko**

Dear everybody,

The year 2017 marks two anniversaries connected with the life of Władysław Biegański, a doctor, philosopher and social activist from Częstochowa – the 160th anniversary of his birthday and the 100th of his death. Since 1883 till the end of his life Biegański lived in our town in a house at the present Wolności Street 16. He worked for the Warsaw-Vienna Railway, then as a factory doctor and the director of a municipal hospital. He was a graduate of the department of medicine at the Imperial University of Warsaw. He is known for his huge contribution to the development of healthcare and hygienic awareness in Częstochowa, he was the founder of the Medical Society of Częstochowa, the Charitable Society for Christians, the Hygienic Society, as well as the first president of the Częstochowa Branch of the Polish Tourist Society. In 1917 his social activity brought about the establishment of a municipal library in Częstochowa, which holds the patronage of its founder.

Władysław Biegański was the author of many medical textbooks, among others: *Differential Diagnosis of Internal Diseases* (published in 1891), *Lectures on Acute Infectious Diseases* (published between 1900-1901), *General Issues of Medical Science Theories* (published in 1897), *Logic of Medicine* (published in 1894 complemented in 1908, and published as *Logic of Medicine, or General Methodology Principles of Medical Sciences*). He also dealt with philosophy, especially the cognitive theory oriented toward diagnosing diseases. Among other things he wrote *A Treaty of Cognition and Truth* (published in 1910) and *General Ethics* (published in 1922).

As an author of publications concerning general principles of practicing medicine, Biegański paid particular attention to the humanistic dimension of medical practice. He knew that “anatomical changes do not indicate everything in a disease” and “the psychological factor plays a very important role in any treatment” (*Logic of Medicine or a Criticism of Medical Cognition*). According to him, the most important domain of any medical treatment was a cooperation between a doctor and a patient, who should be approached in a holistic manner, as a whole – his ailing body combined with his mind and emotions. His works are characterised not only by an outstanding cognitive dimension, but they also testify to his excellent knowledge of contemporary philosophy. What is more, they represent a superb language level since Biegański, a medical theorist, was also a writer with his own individual literary style.

It is obvious that in the year of the double anniversary of such an eminent citizen of Częstochowa, the next edition of the Polish-Czech project “An intellectual in the provinces” (that has been realised since 2012) will take place under his patronage. Up to the present moment, due to the efforts of the Faculty of Philology and History of the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa and the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Ostrava, the following conferences have been organised: “An intellectual in the provinces”, “A historian in the provinces”, “A writer in the provinces”, “A philosopher in the provinces” and “An artist in the provinces”. During each meeting we have been trying to explain the influence of external factors, such as a social and technical environment, on the development of a conscious, talented and creative individual. We have been discussing conditions for the modernization of a society that have been taking place since the 19th century, the role of university centres in shaping the intellectual and artistic elite, as well as possibilities of being creative far from the established cultural and scientific centres. We have been presenting representatives of the various spheres of human activity who lived and worked  
in small local communities. We have been reflecting on art and scientific works created in such conditions and the universal values arising from these works.

We believe that doctor Władysław Biegański deserves to be remembered because of his outstanding achievements in the areas of medicine, philosophy and his work for the society, as well as the biographical conditions – life in Częstochowa, which was then a provincial town. Therefore, the Faculty of Philology and History at the Jan Długosz University in Częstochowa and the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Ostrava have a pleasure of inviting you to a scientific conference “A doctor in the provinces” which will be held in Częstochowa on 9-10 November 2017. During the meeting we would like not only to honour the memory of this eminent citizen of Częstochowa, but also to reflect, in an interdisciplinary way, on the relationships between medicine and humanities. We suggest considering the following specific problems:

• biographies and works of doctors-writers  
• images of doctors, of the process of treatment, of hospitals in literature and in other arts  
• images of Polish and foreign spas, travel writing connected with medical treatment and

healthcare

• images of medical research centres and of masters in the medical profession in diary writing

and literature  
• philosophical, social and cultural aspects of health and disease  
• disease as a metaphor in history, culture and religion  
• proverbs related to health and disease

• images of disease and treatment in different religions and beliefs  
• great epidemics and their images in history and art  
• literary images of doctors in their environment – changes of the status, social and geographic

conditions, mental and moral states, historical, genealogical and sexual aspects   
• traditions of Polish medicine, profiles of prominent scholars

Our invitation is addressed to historians, philosophers, sociologists, doctors, literary scholars, art historians. We would be interested not only in reflection focused on contemporary issues concerning relations between medicine, literature and art, but also in looking at this issue from a historical perspective.

**Time and place of the conference:** 9-10 November 2017, Ośrodek Orle Gniazdo (Eagle's Nest Resort) in Hucisko near Częstochowa.

The conference fee: 350 zł.

The application form should be sent by 31 May 2017 to the following Internet address: [lekarznaprowincji@onet.pl](mailto:lekarznaprowincji@onet.pl)

We cordially invite you to participate in this scientific event,

**Organising committee:**

prof. Agnieszka Czajkowska

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prof. Barbara Szargot

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Anna Czerniecka-Haberko PhD

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